

BUCHANAN, JAMES - Family History

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Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

James Buchanan
Family History

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Jas Buchanan The 15th Pres.
of the U. S. was the 2nd child
of Jas Buchanan, a native of
County Donegal, Ireland who
in 1783 at the age of 23
came to Phila - A few months
later he removed to Stony Batter
near Mercersburg -

He married Elizabeth Speer
in 1788 - Their son James
was born at Stony Batter
Apr 23 - 1791 -

Died in Wheatland near
Lancaster Pa - June 1 - 1868

He was a Rep. from Pa.
also elected to the Senate
volunteer in the war of 1812 -

London & Lancashire Indemnity Company

OF AMERICA

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, HARTFORD, CONN.

HOKE INSURANCE AGENCY
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

Browning's "Americans of Royal Descent" (1882) pages 48 - 49 reads as follows: James Buchanan removed to America in 1783 and settled near Mercersburg, Franklin county, Pennsylvania where he died in 1821 leaving issue by his wife Elizabeth Speer (whom he married in Adams county, Pa.) as follows:

- (1) James, President of the United States, (2) William Speer, (3) George W. (4) Edward Young Buchanan, D.D. of Philadelphia. Pa., who married (1833) Ann Elizabeth, daughter of William B. Foster of Pittsburgh, Pa; (5) Jane, who married (1813) Elliott T. Lane. According to Carleton H. Miller, there were other daughters; Mrs. Harriett B. Henry and Mrs. Maria Yates. There does not appear to be proof that any "brothers or sisters" of the said James came to America. *(President's father)*

Again "Americans of Royal Descent" says "The degree of relationship between President James Buchanan and the brothers Thomas and Alexander Buchanan is so slight as to be negligible".

From the "History of Strathendrick" by J. Guthrie Smith of Glasgow, Scotland we read that the father of President Buchanan was descended from Thomas Buchanan of Ramelton county, Donegal, Ireland.

Inventory of President James Buchanan's estate (1868) was published as amounting to about \$300,000 consisting of stocks, bonds and realty (local) accumulated during his forty years of activity.

Elizabeth Speer the mother of President Buchanan was a sister of Rev. William Speer a Presbyterian minister.

*all this came out of the S. A. R.
magazines -*

Buchanan's Brother, Edward young Buchanan
married a sister of Stephen Collins Foster

(See E. K. Kelly Boals)

By 1804, twenty-two lawyers had been admitted to that Circuit Court Bar
(Haycraft 33-55)

It was at the house of John Rowan Near Bowling Green
that the song 'My Old Kentucky Home' was written.
Rowan finally remained in Louisville and became
one of the foremost lawyers of his time.

Haycraft

The following was in the original "manuscript" but as I couldn't read all the words correctly I am giving it to you like this.

MARCH TERM. March 8, 1909.

Haycraft mentions several suits in court in the name of James Buchanan regarding land- He says "The plaintiff, James Buchanan was the father of James Buchanan the future President.

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The Reference Library (Our set of reference books) says he was admitted to the bar in 1812. Graduated from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania in 1809.

The summer of 1818 finds the monotony of Rafinesque's life varied by a journey over the Alleghanies and down the Ohio, which he descended from Pittsburg in a flat boat. He was one of a party of several men, who travelled by day and rested by night. This must have suited the taste of Rafinesque, who could thus give the greatest possible attention to his loves, the flowers and the fishes and the mollusks.

The party with which Rafinesque reached Louisville found its haven at the Falls. At Shippingport he was received by the Messrs Tarascon who operated a ~~mill~~ large flouring mill at that place. For two weeks he remained there and one who has ever seen the the rich molluscan life of the Falls of the Ohio at low water might understand what busy weeks these were.

Shippingport is now within the corporate limits of the city of Louisville, at the foot of the Falls of the Ohio.

*This is all I can see but I will
try to find more in L. & D. of Rafinesque.*

1/ The Buchanans In Kentucky
To The Editor of The Courier-Journal

In the editorial comment in the Courier-Journal of April 30, in regard to the claim that President James Buchanan was the owner of a large tract of land in Kentucky, the reasonable suggestion is made that if he ever bought any land in this state the record of the conveyance is more likely to be found in Hardin County than in Mercer, where search is being made. It has been commonly understood that James Buchanan was an Elizabethan as a young lawyer for a short time; but the exact time or duration of his sojourn there is uncertain. From the best available information it must have been about the year 1813. In the sketch of his life in the recent "Biographical Directory of the American Congress" it is stated that he was born in Pennsylvania April, 23, 1791; was graduated from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Penn. in 1809; moved to Lancaster, Penn. in the same year; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1812, and practiced at

2/ Lane etc; that he was one of its first volunteers in the war of 1812, and served in the defence of Baltimore; was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 1814 and 1815, and was in Congress from 1821 to 1831. No mention is made of his trip to Kentucky, and it will be seen that he could not have been here for any great length of time.

It is very probable that James Buchanan, the future president, came to Elizabethtown to look after legal business for his father, whose Christian name was also James. Whether the younger man ever had any land in Kentucky is unknown to the writer; but there is no doubt that his father did own land in this state, and which he was in litigation for many years, beginning in 1803, and twice carried to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, reported in volume 2, Littrell's Reports, page 258, under the style of Lane vs. Lane and in volume 3, J. J. Marshall's Reports, page 156 (Lane Heirs vs. Lane's Executors).

3/ It appears from the reports of this Case that the elder James Buchanan was the owner of a one-third interest in a tract of 5,900 acres of land in Hardin County, which was the property of James Harne at the time of his death in 1792.

As Pennsylvanians were purchasers of immense quantities of land in Kentucky at early dates in our history, it is likely that the elder James Buchanan acquired tracts other than this which he had in Hardin County; but it is doubtful if the son ever owned any lands in this State, unless he acquired title by inheritance from his father.

O. M. Mathis

Hodgenville, Ky.

Ben Hardin was born in West Morland
County, Pennsylvania, in the year 1784

Haycrafts History

page 186

Haycraft says --

Thomas S. Crutcher may be considered one of the oldest residents of Elizabethtown, now living, except myself. He was born in Bardonia, Kentucky, on the 28th day of August 1798, just fourteen days after I was born in Elizabethtown. His father, the late Major James Crutcher, soon after came with his family to Elizabethtown, and up to the time of his death acted a prominent part as merchant, tavern-keeper, justice of the peace, judge of the Quarter Session Court, trustee of the town, trustee of the Academy, and Representative

and Senator in the Kentucky Legislature. The same Thomas S. Crutcher of whom we now speak, received his early education in the same schools as myself and Thomas W. Nicholson, Rev. Ben Ogden, and Samuel Stevenson, but completed his education at Nashville, under Dr. Priestly, and boarded with Mr. Hume and roomed with John Bell and Ephraim Foster. After his Collegiate course, he went as a volunteer on Gen. Hapken's Campaign on the Wabash, about Tippecanoe. He afterwards

Merchandised in Bowling Green, Ky., but has
been for many years retired to private life, except
a short period, during which he was Clerk of the
Hardin County Court.

Haycraft p. p. 155-154

In the year 1812 there was a call for volunteers under General Hapkins. The Major then being forty-five years of age was a volunteer in Col. Aaron Hart's Company, although in affluent circumstances and rather feeble health, he answered to the call of his Country. That was a mounted force, each man furnishing his own horse, gun and ammunition, rations for himself and provender for his horse.

The force amounted to about two thousand men, there was no Commissary or quartermaster, and not a solitary wagon; his brother Charles Helms and George Helms, Thomas S. Crutcher - all of this town in the Company, beyond Louisville - - -

worden Pope who was considered
the best land lawyer in that part
of Ky was Thomas Lincoln Attorney,
However he sold his interest in the Lincoln
Creek farm and went to Indiana

Beveridge page 35

Albert J. Beveridge

Abraham Lincoln - Vol 1 - page 3.

Haycraft's history - This history, first published
in the Elizabethtown News, is a source book
of repute.

Page 5

Like Barber,

Samuel Haycraft of Elizabethtown, Ky., is a
witness of the highest possible Credibility. No more
esteemed and trusted man lived in Hardin County,
where he was Clerk of both County and Circuit

Courts from 1816 to 1857 inclusive, a member of the Kentucky State Senate and 'one of the most determined supporters of the Union'. Haycraft knew personally those of whom he writes; and like Burba was a staunch friend of President Lincoln.

Major Crutcher

page 74 - Haycraft - (Eating place)

page 77 - (Residence)

page - 80 - (Eating place)

page - 97 - (Store keeper)

page - 98 - (Merchant Trip to Pennsylvania)

page - 99 - (Life)

General John Thomas

Haycraft page 49 + 59

Major James Crutcher father of Thomas S. Crutcher,
soon after came with his family to Elizabethtown
(from Bardstown), and up to the time of his death
acted a prominent part as merchant, town-keeper,
justice of the peace, judge of the quarterly session
court, trustee of the town, trustee of the Academy, and
Representative and Senator in the Kentucky Legislature.
Haycraft - page 155

Beveridge page 26

4.

Michaux describes Muldraugh's Hill as a steep
and lofty mountain that forms a kind of Amphitheatre.
From its summit the Neighboring Country
presents the aspect of an immense valley, covered
with forests of an imperceptible extent, whence,
as far as the eye can reach, nothing but a
gloomy verdant space is seen, formed by the
tops of the close connected trees, and through which
not the vestige of a plantation can be discerned (over)

Michaux; Thwaites, III, 213; Collins II, 540

The History of Elizabethtown
Harry Summers
Chapter XLVIII

In addition to the fact that Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County (Larue then being a part of Hardin) another President of the United States once lived here. Haycraft's history says that James Buchanan practiced law in Elizabethtown. This fact cannot be fully authenticated except that Mr. Haycraft himself must have been living here at the time because Mr. Buchanan, if he practiced law

2 in Elizabethtown, must have located here between 1830 and 1840 and Mr. Haycraft who died in 1878 was a matured man at that time.

There is another fact which in a way corroborates Mr. Haycraft. A lawyer looking in the Hardin County Court Clerk's office records for the title to a certain tract of property, came across a deed to a large body of land conveyed to James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, and located in Hardin County.

The French traveller, F. A. Michaux also rode
on horseback from Townsend to Nashville in
1862, thus records his impressions of the Middleburgh
Hall Country

3.

It is hardly probable that Mr. Buchanan would have bought a tract of land in Hardin County unless he was living here. It is related that when the Pennsylvania lawyer met at the bar of Elizabethtown such distinguished jurists as old Ben Hardin and Judge Rowan he said that Elizabethtown was no place for him as it had bigger lawyers than where he came from in the Keystone State, so he returned to Pennsylvania and was afterwards elected president of the United States.

Ben Hardin

Kitchen Knife - Lincoln knew of Ben Hardin

Called Kitchen Knife ~~because~~ as a result of an attack on Henry Clay.

Kitchen Knife - Ability to cut roughly, but cut deep.

Ben Hardin

One of the most interesting characters in the history of Kentucky during the first half of 19th Century was the Civil and Criminal lawyer, Ben Hardin, who was in active law practice forty-six years.

Born at George's Creek settlement, on the Monongahela river, Westmoreland County, Pa., February 29, 1784. He was the sixth of the seven children of his parents. Came to Kentucky at age four. (Came with family as emigrant boat that bore the Hardin family down the Monongahela, in March 1788)

6/

In 1795 on Threadneedle Street in London, a number of offices were established offering to the public certain magnificent schemes, among them the City of Lystra on the South Creek of the Rolling Fork of Salt River in Nelson County, Kentucky. These land agents reaped a harvest in the sale of Lystra lots, and other Kentucky tracts. The purchasers who came to Nelson County to take possession of their property found the city to be nothing but a myth.

Ellis: The Tang Of The South.

* The Western movement was almost wholly for new lands. By 1790, over 100,000 people had gone West. See Sectionalism in Virginia, Charles Henry Ambler, 42-5

The immigrants to Kentucky were almost exclusively from Virginia and North Carolina. Hall II, 95-7

✓ According to the census of 1800, the total population of Hardin County was then 3653, of which the number of slaves was 325.

* The house which is standing today (Skaggs Building) was the residence of Major Ben Helm and was built in 1801-2. The ~~other~~ brick house was that of Major James Crutcher, the merchant. Haycraft's History of Elizabethtown Page 76-7



THE TANG OF THE SOUTH.
By James Landy Ellis.

The Vanished City.

Many of us boast with much pride of our English ancestry and their noble achievement. They cut a prominent figure in our early history, and it might be possible that some of our boom real estate fakirs can trace their sensational genius back to the promoters of the "Lystra Development Comapny."

In 1795 in Threadneedle Street, London, a number of offices were establishe offering to the public certain magnificent schemes, among them the "City of Lystra on the South Creek of the Rolling Fork of Salt River in Nelson county, Kentucky."

The township of Lystra contained 15,000 acres on the map," the streets, angles, circus and shore of the creek to be free for public use. The streets to be one hundred feet wide."

"Twelve lots, in eligible situations, to be reserved for each subscriber as takes ten shares, one lot to each such subscriber,

" One lot free to the first school master".

" One lot free to the first member of Congress belonging to Nelson county," provided he builds a house thereon.

"One lot free to the first Senator from Nelson county.

" One lot free to the first minister of a church.

" One lot free to to the first man who shall build a commodious hotel.

" Eighty-four lots in the township are appropriated for the common good and sole use of the town. The township is to be provided with theaters and places of amusement and handsome and uniform buildings of residence".

The land pirates back in London reaped a harvest in the sale of Lystra lots, and purchased other tracts in Kentucky withput reference to real availability as sites for "cities." One modern feature of advertising they overlooked. They didn't give away a five-dollar gold piece with every tenth lot, and they did not supply a brass band at the sale.

The men who came to tzke possession of their lots in the magic city of discovered that they had been stung when they reached Nelson county. They learned that Lystra was a myth, and that the stream which had been advertised as ~~having~~ bearing large sailing vessels was a shallow creek.

The years rolled by. Long afterward a young preacher came to take charge of one of the churches in Nelson county. At his second service he took for his text Acts 14:" And there sat a certain man in Lystra, impotent in his feet, who had never walked --"
At this point an old deacon arose. He had a bunch of whiskers on his chin that looked like a horse's tail tied up on a muddy road. He interrupted the young preacher and said: " Young man, you cut that text out; my father cut it out of his Bible and if you use it again you'll cut out of here in a jiffy."

over -

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HOKE INSURANCE AGENCY
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

I just finished the story for fun. Of course it is not important but I do think the part about Lystra is good and I imagine it is authentic. Are you sure it was at Boston? Be sure before you say anything rash.

I believe if you will look real good in the scrap book up there you will find the story about going up Salt River. I can't find it here and I know we had it. Didn't that expression originate with the defeat of Henry Clay for some office?

In the case of LaRue vs LaRue mention is made of the sale of lands by Isaac LaRue, Robt. Hodgins and Philip Phillips, executors of the estate of John LaRue. Several large tracts of land were sold in order to discharge debts against the estate and these lands were re-sold by the purchasers; one large tract in Hardin county finally being transferred to James Dickey, James Buchanan and Robert Johnson. These men were treated in the action as non-residents. The LaRue heirs in this case were seeking to recover from the executors alleging that the sale of these lands was fraudulent and that the amount of indebtedness was too small to warrant the sale of this property.

J. J. Marshall's Reports, Page 156
Cases between Dec. 15, 1829 and April 30, 1830.)

LaRue Heirs vs LaRue's Executors.

In July 1827 the circuit court rendered a decree dismissing the bill of the complainants as to Michael Campbell executor of Philip Phillips and also as to Dickey, Buckhannon, Johnson's representatives, Wm Young and the heirs of Philip Phillips, and decreed costs in favor of these defendants, against the complainants, there being no evidence that Campbell, Dickey, Buckhannon or Young had any knowledge that the sale of the lands made by LaRue's executors to Kirkpatrick was fraudulent.

In the report of the case it is shown that by a deed given in June 1809 Dickey and Buckhannon transferred their interest in 2900 acres of the 5900 mentioned to Bard, Findley and Robert Johnson executors.

(Michael and Charles Campbell on the 11th. of March 1796 conveyed these lands to Robert Johnson, James Dickey and James Buckhannon.)

(This Philip Phillips is Phil Watkins ancestor and Phil was named for him.)

INCORPORATED 1846

THE AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY

Newark, N. J.

FIRE INSURANCE AND KINDRED LINES



THE HOKE INSURANCE AGENCY
ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky.

With everything AMERICAN, tomorrow is secure

Six Generations of Larues and Allied Families
page 83

A large part of the landed estate left by John LaRue (II) was disposed of during the minority of his Children. A suit was filed in Hardin County in the year 1803 for the recovery of the land sold, which was on the docket of the Court for many years, and was twice carried to the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, as reported in volume 2 of Littell's Reports, page 258 (1822), and ^(vol) 3 of J. Marshall's Reports, page 156 (1830). It is of some interest to note that James Buchanan, the father of the future President of the same name, was a party to this litigation, as the purchaser of a portion of the land in controversy. The son James Buchanan, probably had some part as a lawyer in this action. He came from his Pennsylvania

home to Elizabethtown to share with his father
in the western investment, and resided in
that town for a short time in the year
1813, when he was just twenty-two years
of age. Fifteen years later he told Ben
Hardin in Washington that his return to
Pennsylvania was due to his discovery
that every lawyer he met at the Elizabethtown
bar was his equal and more than half of
them were his superiors.

Ben Hardin

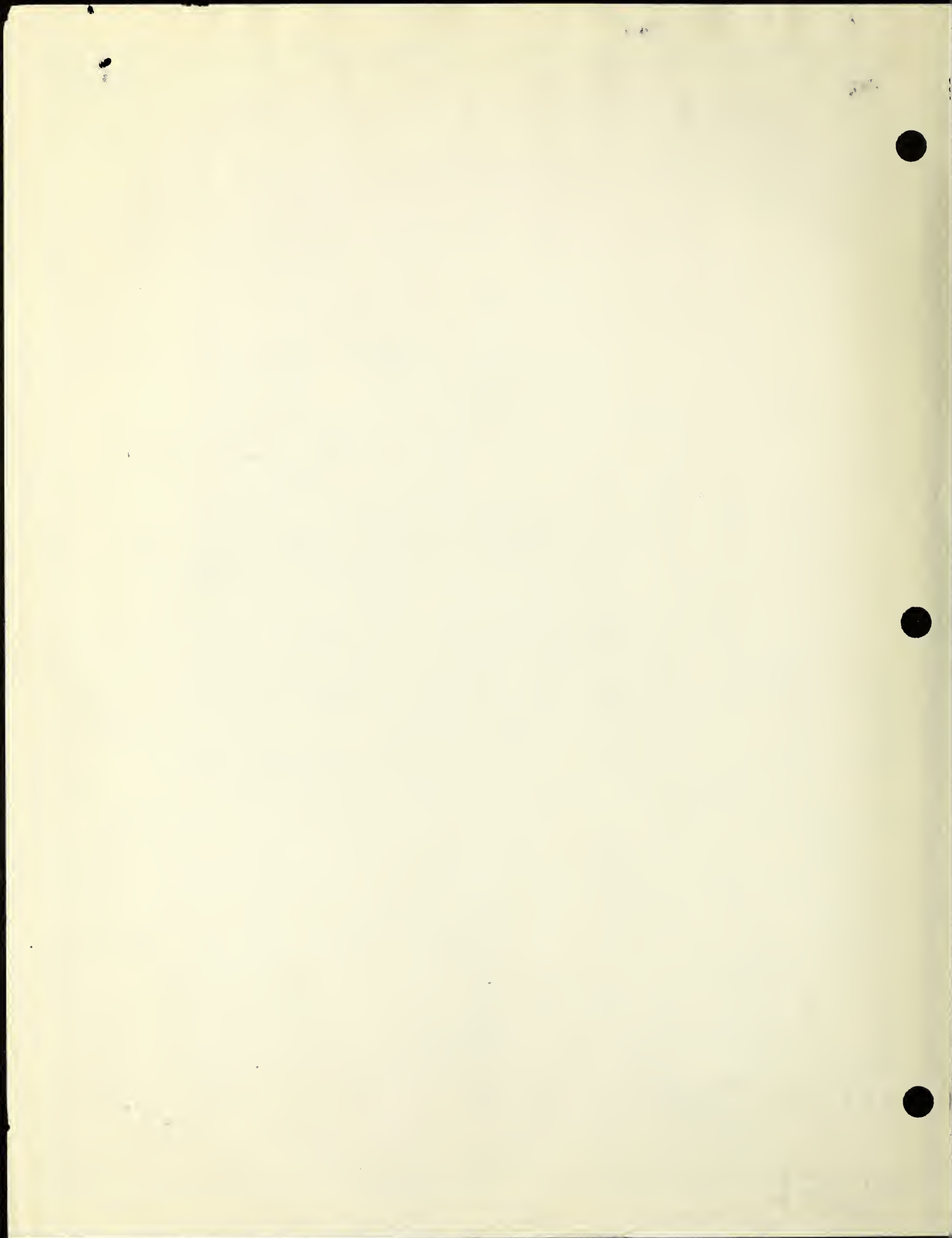
Ex-president Buchanan spoke of seeing him on one occasion, at an early period of life, thus arrayed at Elyabuthtown, the material of his apparel being linen, of home manufacture. (Hon. B. J. Webb who from childhood had known Mr. Hardin)

Ben Hardin in the fashion of western hunters and farmers wore no coat, but instead a short outer garment of the pea-jacket type. This fashion still prevails among the elite of Mexican Coballeros.

Page 560

Ben Hardin
~~Life~~

His Times and Contemporaries



Ben Hardin in Congress

John Randolph of Roanoke dubbed Hardin "Kitchen Knife" on the ground that he was rough and homely, but keen and trenchant.

Lucinda Hardin, the great lawyer's daughter, married John Helm, who became Governor of Kentucky, President of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, and Governor again in 1867, although he lived only five days after taking the oath of office.

Ben Hardin

Born in Pennsylvania, but he was brought here as a child of three years, educated in Washington County, Bardonia and Hartford, studied law at Richmond and was admitted to the bar in Bardonia in 1804. (over)

H. settled in Elizabethtown after his marriage,
but did not stay long. Remained to
Bardonia.

Salt River

expression "going up Salt River" for defeated
Candidates grew out of the fact that Henry Clay
went up that River in a steamboat to have
a game of poker and missed his speaking
appointment in consequence and thus lost
the Presidency.

2

Hardin County was organized from a part of the territory of Nelson
by an act of the Kentucky Legislature at its first session in December,
1792. Otis M. Mather: Six Generations of Larues and Allied Families.
page 114.

* The boundaries of early Hardin County were vague except that the Ohio,
Salt, Rolling Fork and Green rivers were specifically mentioned. At different
times, since then the counties of Meade, Breckenridge, and Larue have been
organized from the original territory included in Hardin County. Its present
area is 606 square miles the largest county in the state.

4th

Salt River

Carrion - Journal

March 18-1952

Salt River derived its name from the numerous salt-making operations conducted along the stream in the early days, the product being sent to market in flatboats that dotted the historic waterway. At any rate Salt River seems to have been known for its salt cargoes long before the stream was associated with the unattained ambitions of defeated politicians who after election are supposed to make a figurative trip to its head-waters as a penalty for failure to win victory.

On each horse (except the one on which the driver sat) a string of bells, attached to a bow above the collar "discouraged most eloquent music" as the long line of wagons traversed the still forests of the mountains. The wagons were of the pattern used by the farmers east of the mountains, and were called Conestoga wagons

Page 11

My Brother Stephen by Harrison Foster

page 14

Pittsburg ever since the Revolutionary war, has always been a town of refinement, with a society fit to mingle in the Courts of royalty.

page 17

When Louis Philippe and his brothers, Beaufort and Montpensier, visited Pittsburg they expressed surprise at the ease and elegance of their entertainment by the people.

Gentlemen:

Reposing the highest Confidence and Trust in your
vigilance & Abilities I expect you proceed
with all possible despatch the land I have
listed according to the instructions Wm & May
and I would recommend to you to stop at the
mouth of Salt River to Survey May's of
20,000 acres adjoining Johnston's Military Survey
& (Markies) of 2,800,00 so I would recommend
you to take every precaution respecting the Indians
and in no case to relax your prudence in that
respect. I expect you will Survey all the land
entered in the Name of John May Barister &
Com^{rs} and be sure to make comments on all
the Surveys that you make for me relative to its
situation soil & any real advantages it may
has - Wishing you every success and praying
that you will not return without completing
of the (Business) Forwell

M. Inlay

Mr Woolfolk Helm

Lancaster, 20th of July 1785

Ismlay, Gilbert

Author, b. in New Jersey about 1750. He was a Captain in the American Army during the Revolutionary War, and after its termination emigrated to Kentucky, where he was appointed a deputy Surveyor under George May, at Louisville. Subsequently he went to Europe, and while in Paris lived unmarried, in mutual pledges of Constancy, with Mary Wollstonecraft, the English Author. Shortly before the birth of a child, Ismlay deserted her, under pretext of being called to a distant Country. Her plaintive letters to him were answered evasively, and, after an attempt at suicide, she turned again to literature for support, writing her "Letters from Sweden, Norway, and Denmark" (1794). She afterwards married William Godwin, and a daughter, the fruit of this Union, became the wife of Shelley, the poet. During his stay in Kentucky, Ismlay wrote glowing descriptions of the Country in a series of letters to a friend in England. These were revised and embodied in a volume styled

"A Topographical Description of the Western Territory
of North America" (London 1792; enlarged ed.,
1795; with supplement by John Felson, 2
val., New York, 1793; 2d enlarged ed., London,
1797. Inlay was also the author of
"The Emigrants, or the History of an Exiled
Family" a novel (3 val., London 1793)

Harden Circuit Court - September Term 1815-

Ordered that William A. Clark, James Payne,
Menas Lewright, Ally Overall and Thomas
Lemus, Pay unto John Helms the sum of
One pound Eight Shillings and four pence
for attending this Court five days as a witness
for them at the suit of James Dickey and
James Buchanan, and travelling forty miles,
and returning the same distance.

A Copy Test

Ben Helms C. H. C. C.

Clark, Wm A
Payne, James
Lewright, Minn
Overall, Ally
Lewis, Thomas
Dickey, James
Buchanan, James
Helen, Ben

Warden Circuit Ct September Term 1815
Ordered that William A Clark, James Payne, Minor
Lewright, Ally Overall (and Thomas Lewis) pay unto John
Heem the sum of one pound eight shillings & four pence
for attending this Court this Term five days as a
hostiopp for them at the Suit of James Dickey (and
James Buchanan) (and travelling forty miles, (and
returning) the same distance

A Copy Test

Ben Heem & Co, C

March Term - Mar 8 - 1813

How Ben Hardin paid Com from Isaac
Shelby 2m apps in court also

Alfred Metcalf sworn as atty -

Several suits in the name of James
Buchanan + James Diskey for land
were filed for land
the plff - James Buchanan was the
father of James Buchanan future
president -

this date could be 1809 or 1819 or 1813
You can get this straight by your
other information - I guess it is 1813
I don't think the mention of Ben Hardin
has any thing to do with the B. cases -
A lot more follows about some people
getting fined for contempt of court -
but there is nothing more that has
any connection with the Jas B. suits -

My Brother, Stephen - Marrison Foster
Stephen Collins Foster was a Cousin of
Judge John Rowan of Bardonia, Ky
one of the first United States Senators from
Kentucky.

page 9

page 21

Ann Eliza ^{sister to Stephen Collins Foster} married Rev. Dr. Edward
Y. Buchanan (brother of President
Buchanan) and died in Philadelphia
at nearly 80 years of age.

Stephen Collins Foster born July 4 - 1826
Some day John Adams - Thomas Jefferson died

²
1000 - 1776

Lucas - Saw,
Beverly Randolph - 5/17/87

800 - 1780

400 - 1780 - Jones Ballard - 7/2/98

500 - 1782

2268 - 1783

800 - 1784

5,768 - Grandfather's Total Average

LINCOLN LORE

No. 171

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

July 18, 1932

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren - - - Editor

GRANDFATHER LINCOLN CHRONOLOGY

The Lincoln family from which the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln descended had its American origin at Hingham, Massachusetts. The names of the Lincolns in the line of descent from Samuel Lincoln of Hingham to Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the president follow:

1. Samuel and Martha Lyford Lincoln.
2. Mordecai and Sarah Jones Lincoln.

3. John and Rebecca Morris Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of the president, was the oldest child of John and Rebecca Morris Lincoln. A sketch of his life is herewith presented:

1744

May 13, born in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and named for his father's brother.

1748

March 9, his twin sisters, Hannah and Lydia born.

1750

March 5, his brother Isaac born.

1751

November 5, his brother Jacob born.

1755

July 15, his brother John born.

1757

September 18, his sister Hannah born.

1761

October 23, his brother Thomas born.

1767

April 18, his sister Rebecca born.

1768

At the age of 24 moved with parents to Linville Creek in Augusta County, Virginia, now Rockingham County.

1770

January 7, witness to the signing of Jacob Warren's will.

March 26, appointed administrator of Jacob Warren's estate but refused to serve.

June 9, marriage recorded in Augusta County, Virginia, but name of bride not given.

July 7, bought two cows for three pounds 10 shillings at Jacob Warren's administrator's sale.

Listed as a captain of the Virginia militia.

1771

His son Mordecai born (exact date not known.)

1772

June, gave note to Mr. Beard.

August 10, witnessed a deed signed by Ruben and Lydia Harrison. Lydia was his sister.

1773

August 12, acquired land from his father on Linville Creek now in Rockingham County, Virginia.

His son, Josiah born (exact date not known.)

1774

May, in Augusta County Court, Beard vs. Abraham Lincoln note says "Defendant lives on Linville Creek."

His daughter, Mary, born (exact date not known.)

1776

Called a captain at a court-martial held in Stanton, Virginia.

Served as a judge advocate in court in Rockingham County.

A member of Linville Creek Baptist Church committee.

Son, Thomas, father of President Lincoln, born (exact date not known—January most often named as the month.)

1000 acres of land entered for him in Kentucky by Daniel Boone.

1777

August 19, ordered by Augusta County Court that list of tithables in Captain Abraham Lincoln's company be taken.

August 20, Captain Lincoln's order to take the list of tithables.

Served as judge advocate in Rockingham County Court (Rockingham County was set apart from Augusta in 1777.)

1778

Served as judge advocate in Rockingham County court.

Sometime between the birth of Abraham's son, Thomas, in January, 1776, and 1779 there is a probability that his first wife died and he married again. The first name of the wife of this second marriage was Bersheba. Her last name is said to have been Herring.

1779

September 6, bought fifty-two acres of land in Rockingham County adjacent to his own property.

November 22, deed to above land recorded.

Name appears as a captain of militia in Rockingham County.

1780

February 18—Sells 250 acres of land in Rockingham County for which he

received 5,000 pounds current money of Virginia.

His wife, Bersheba, signed deed with him.

March 4, issued land warrant No. 3334 for 400 acres of land for which he paid one hundred and sixty pounds.

March 25, a daughter, Nancy, born.

June 26, deed to land sold on February 18 recorded.

August 29, his brother Jacob married Dorcas Robinson.

June 7, entered 800 acres of land on Green River in Kentucky six miles below Green River Lick.

May 29, entered 400 acres of land on Floyd Fork in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

1781

May 1, his name appears on petition for the establishment of a town in Rockingham County, Virginia.

September 24, Bersheba voluntarily relinquished her right of dower to land sold.

1782

August, captured by Indians near Danville, Kentucky, and made to run the gauntlet and then released.

He was on his way back to Virginia to remove his family to Kentucky.

June 27, his brother, John, married Mary Yarnall.

September 23, his brother, Thomas, married Elizabeth Casner.

December 11, 500 acres of land entered for him in Kentucky by Daniel Boone, warrant 5994.

Probably moved to Kentucky in the fall of this year.

1783

Made contract with John Reed to locate 2268 acres of land which Lincoln had entered on warrant 14487. This land was on Green River near Bear Creek in Kentucky.

November 24, his name on the above warrant assigning the land to John Reed was claimed to be a forgery.

1784

November, his 800 acre tract on Green River is surveyed.

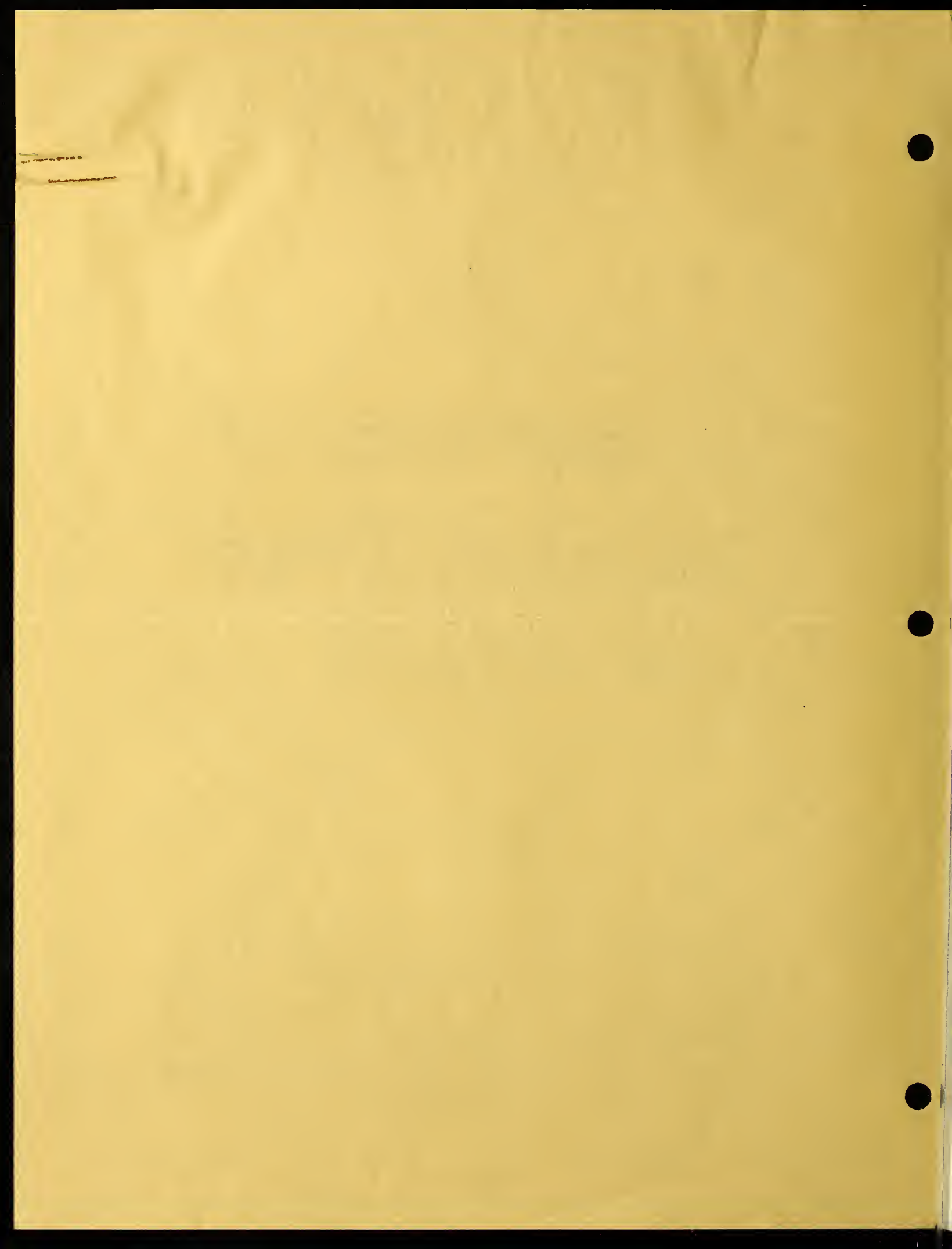
1785

May 7, signed name as a chain carrier on a record of survey of his land on Long Run, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

1786

May, massacred by Indians on his Long Run Farm in Jefferson County, Kentucky, and his body is said to be buried in the Long Run Meeting House Cemetery which is within his 400-acre boundary.

The grandfather of Abraham Lincoln for which he was named was 42 years old at the time of his death and left a widow and five children.



John Rowan and His Law Office

By NELLE BOHANNON VAUGHAN

THE restoration of the old spring house on the grounds of *My Old Kentucky Home* calls to mind the fact that one of the most famous law offices Kentucky has ever had was in the rude log room over the rock spring house when *My Old Kentucky Home* was *Federal Hill* and its owner was John Rowan, conceded to be the greatest criminal lawyer of his time.

John Rowan was a child when he came to Kentucky from Pennsylvania. He grew up in Kentucky and with Kentucky. In 1795 he built *Federal Hill* one mile beyond Bardstown on a great tract of land which was obtained under a Royal warrant by his father, a Revolutionary soldier who had been High Sheriff of York back in Pennsylvania under George III.

At the foot of the long slope of hill in front of the dignified Georgian mansion stood the stone spring house enclosing a cool stream. Over this stone house was a rude room of logs which John Rowan used as a law office. The original logs rotted away long ago and for years the stone walls stood in ruins, but recently the house has been restored, following the instructions of old citizens of Bardstown and Nelson County who remember the place as it was left by the pioneer lawyer.

In this office many significant cases were drawn and made and much legal advice was given that changed the destiny of state and nation. Also it was a notable school for young lawyers. With a marked degree of patience John Rowan devoted hours of his time to the training of young lawyers who were to become famous statesmen and jurists.

John Rowan served in Congress and preceded his contemporary, Henry Clay, to the United States Senate, but he loved the law above all else and his political attainments were used as a means of lending prestige to his legal practice.

He was Chief Justice of Kentucky's Supreme Court, and at the time of his death had been commissioned to define our boundary line with Mexico.

John Rowan's duelling pistols were presented to him while he was in Congress. He had fought a duel



JOHN ROWAN I and JOHN ROWAN II
The above pictures are photographs of paintings at
My Old Kentucky Home.

reluctantly when he was but twenty-eight years old with Dr. Chambers of his own age. The dispute started at an inn at Bardstown over a trifling matter and grew to an affront which compelled Chambers to challenge. Rowan, however, after his anger had somewhat cooled, and upon conscientious thought, declined the challenge and sent Dr. Chambers his apologies. Dr. Chambers declined to accept the apology and emphatically renewed the challenge with the result that even, after another effort on the part of Rowan, after reaching the duelling field, to keep from killing him, Chambers was shot near the heart and died an hour later. John Rowan was a dead shot. These same duelling pistols were disposed of in his will under the paragraph "My Duelling Pistols I bequeath to my son John and at his death to his oldest son. They are never to be used by either but when their honor imperatively demands it, and in that case I know they will be held steadily."

This was the man of great distinction who founded *Federal Hill* and there entertained LaFayette, Henry Clay, Aaron Burr and many other brilliant and celebrated men.

When he died in 1843 in Louisville the splendor of early Kentucky was at its height and his son, young John Rowan, proved a worthy successor to the estate of his father, extending the hospitality and fame of *Federal Hill* and, as host to Stephen Collins Foster, he became instrumental in providing inspiration for the song that was to immortalize the house and its traditions.

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John Rowan's Will

In his will, which can be seen at *My Old Kentucky Home*, John Rowan disposed of vast lands and slaves and personal properties in such a finite manner that executors, family, friends and foes knew the futility of trying to break it. He left no possible loophole. He underscored deeply the clause, "Because I never used a client's money" settling, thereby any claim of such that a client might bring up after his death, and also implying that less scrupulous lawyers of his time might have been guilty of such.



STEPHEN COLLINS FOSTER
1826-1864

Western and Central Kentucky have furnished many specimens of Kentucky metallic minerals, including zinc and lead ores, Smithsonite and Galena, and related minerals—barite, calcite and celestite—all of them valuable commercially. These are also on exhibit.

A matter that has escaped the interest of many Kentuckians is the fact that Kentucky has part of the largest fluor spar producing field in the world. A very colorful and complete collection of Kentucky fluorite has been made, and for purposes of comparison another case of fluorite, from almost every other producing field in the world, has been assembled.

Of more historical than economic value today is the collection of iron ores from Kentucky. At one time iron production was of major importance in this State. In fact, many cannon balls used in the War of 1812 and in the Civil War were cast in Kentucky. Specimens of Kentucky-produced iron are on exhibition from the Cottage Furnace, Estill County; Racoon Furnace, Greenup County; Nolin Furnace, Edmonson County, and the Sewanee Furnace in Lyon County. For purposes of comparison some foreign iron ores are also on display. Most of the iron ore found in Kentucky is of the limonite variety, although there is some hematite. The decadence of Kentucky's iron industry can be directly traced to the opening of the Lake Superior fields where a much richer product was available. It is possible that, within time, the exhaustion of these supplies may again center interest in the Kentucky iron resources.

Minerals Not Found in Kentucky

Probably the most varied cases in the museum of the Bureau of Mineral and Topographic Survey are two that contain representative minerals not found in Kentucky. These include many specimens of precious stones both in polished and natural states, as well as some of the precious metals. Less spectacular, but of more practical importance, are the displays of sulphur, salt, borax, and asbestos.

In this display are specimens that bring to mind a typical trial of every state geologist. We see a glittering, golden mineral that we feel must have considerable value. Upon inquiry, however, we learn that the lustrous specimen is nothing more than "fool's gold" or ordinary iron pyrite. Many specimens of this mineral are sent annually to geologists over the entire United States with the hope that a new gold mine has been discovered; and great is the dis-



Gypsum Rosette, Old Entrance, Mammoth Cave.



Left Tier—Floyd Collins Crystal Cave (also base of right).
Right Tier (except bottom), Great Onyx.
Center—Mammoth Onyx (large) and Great Onyx.

appointment of the prospector when he learns that his specimen is of insignificant value.

You have doubtless seen shooting stars and meteorites (from a safe distance) on many summer nights. Have you actually seen the materials at close range that make up these meteorites? In this museum are specimens of three Kentucky meteorites; the Campbellsville and Glasgow meteorites, which are composed of nickel and iron, and the Cumberland Falls meteorite, that is of the stony variety.

Glaciers in Kentucky

Proof that the glaciers once were present along the northern boundary of Kentucky is shown in the seven or eight specimens of glacial erratics contained in the museum. These have been collected largely in Rowan, Scott and Carroll counties. Scientists know that these specimens are far removed from Kentucky, because no familiar rocks are found stratified in this State, while in many instances parent ledges can be located in Canada from which these erratics were derived.

Space is not available to list all the specimens of the curio variety contained in this museum, but among the fossil specimens are some resembling hickory nuts, doughnuts, hornets' nests and elephants' feet. These are actually fossilized organisms but the comparison to objects of our present day is too vivid to be overlooked.

The Bureau of Mineral and Topographic Survey has gone to considerable effort to place upon the walls of its museum maps and diagrams illustrating the geology of other parts of the world. A visit to this museum should be regarded as an obligation by all Kentuckians. It is open to the public without charge, daily except Sundays 9 a. m. to 12 m., and 1:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m. On Saturdays the museum closes at 1:30 p. m.

One or more types of maps for every county in Kentucky as well as other publications on Kentucky geology may be procured from the offices of the Bureau of Mineral and Topographic Survey in the museum.

Incidentally, many Kentuckians have in their possession "finds" of various kinds that could well be donated to this museum. In many cases these specimens are poorly cared for by individuals and are of such a nature that they would be of real value to the general public if properly displayed.



The restored spring house and law office.



My Old Kentucky Home, Federal Hill, Bardstown.

